

### What is explicit vocabulary instruction

The process of explicitly teaching vocabulary and encouraging it's use to broaden conceptual understanding and add depth to explanations.



### What does research say?

Vocabulary is more than a list of 'word meanings in the mind,' but actually functions as an index of a much richer and harder to measure **constellation of understandings and experiences** (Shanahan, 2005).

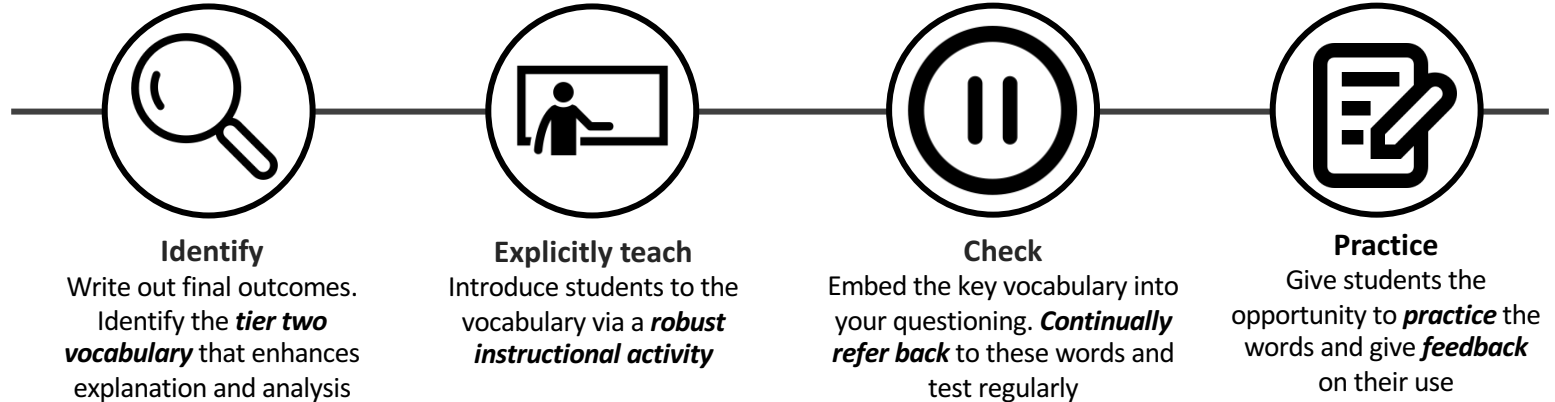
Relying on learning word meanings from **independent reading is not an adequate way** to deal with students' vocabulary development (Kucan, 2013)

### Further reading

Beck, McKeown and Kucan,  
*Bringing words to life: Robust vocabulary instruction*

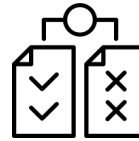
### Embedding Vocabulary Instruction

There are several ways you can easily embed explicit vocabulary instruction in the history classroom



### Do's and Don'ts

To make your vocabulary instruction more effective follow this guide of dos and don'ts



1 – Read *academic literature* to help identify key conceptual vocabulary

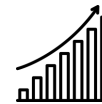
2 – Support teaching of new vocabulary with *visual aids* aimed to trigger memory

1 – Introduce *more than two* new pieces of complex vocabulary in one lesson

2 – *Ignore old vocabulary* in new lessons. Regularly return to vocabulary taught across the year

### In the History Classroom

Below are some examples of how direct vocabulary instruction could be used in a History classroom. This is example of how it could be applied to the teaching of Elizabethan England.



The successive plots against Elizabeth had the **cumulative** effect of hardening her approach to England's Catholic's, **culminating** in the execution of Mary Queen of Scots.



The Elizabethan Royal Court was made up of new, largely protestant noblemen, meaning many Catholic nobles felt **ostracized**, thereby **exacerbating** tension between Elizabeth and her Catholic subjects.



Elizabeth's continual **reticence** in the Netherlands was ultimately **debilitating** for the English commander, Robert Dudley, as he was left poorly resourced and undermanned.